

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing shall replace all prior versions, or listings, of claims in this application.

1. (currently amended) A synthetic protein copolymer comprising at least one hydrophilic block and at least one hydrophobic block, said copolymer having a first hydrophobic end block, a second hydrophobic end block, and a middle hydrophilic block;

wherein said middle block ~~is~~ comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 23, SEQ ID NO: 24, SEQ ID NO: 25, SEQ ID NO: 30, SEQ ID NO: 33, SEQ ID NO: 35, SEQ ID NO: 38, SEQ ID NO: 41, SEQ ID NO: 42, SEQ ID NO: 43, (SEQ ID NO: 63)<sub>m</sub>, (SEQ ID NO: 14)<sub>m</sub>, (SEQ ID NO: 15)<sub>m</sub> and (SEQ ID NO: 18)<sub>m</sub>; wherein m is from about 10 to about 100;

and wherein said first and second end blocks ~~are~~ comprise a sequence independently selected from the group consisting of:

(SEQ ID NO: 11)<sub>n</sub>, and (SEQ ID NO: 12)<sub>n</sub> wherein n is from about 5 to about 100.

2. (canceled)
3. (previously amended) The protein copolymer of claim 1 wherein said first and second end blocks are substantially identical.
4. (previously amended) The protein copolymer of claim 1 wherein the first end block comprises an amino acid sequence of (SEQ ID NO:11)<sub>n</sub>.
5. (previously amended) The protein copolymer of claim 1 wherein the middle block comprises an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: (SEQ ID NO:14)<sub>m</sub> and (SEQ ID NO:15)<sub>m</sub>.
6. (previously amended) The protein copolymer of claim 1 wherein the middle block comprises (SEQ ID NO:14)<sub>m</sub>.

7. (canceled)
8. (previously amended) The protein copolymer of claim 1 wherein n is about 16.
9. (canceled)
10. (previously amended) The protein copolymer of claim 9 wherein the first end block comprises an amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO:11)<sub>n</sub>.
- 11-76. (canceled)